

I
GOSFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Northumberland



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

year ended 31st December, 1971

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	H.C.T. Smith, M.B., Ch.B., M.F.C.M., D.P.H., D.P.A.
Chief Public Health Inspector	George Stenger, M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector	Thomas William Gibson, M.A.P.H.I.
Technical Assistant	Stephen Taylor
Clerks:	Mrs. D. Kershaw
	Miss E. Jastrzab

Tel: Gosforth 854004

Lansdowne Terrace East,

GOSFORTH,

Northumberland.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Gosforth Urban District Council.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour to present the report on the health of the district during 1971.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population for mid 1971 has been adjusted to take account of the preliminary findings of the 1971 Census. In spite of a slight increase in the number of dwellings, the population shows a slight drop due to the density per house dropping marginally. The birth rate is again low. All the rates relating to deaths are at a low level.

The number of new cases of tuberculosis rose sharply during 1970 but in 1971 the figure was back to the low level of previous years.

Apart from keeping under surveillance a number of persons returning from Spain, 1971 was a quiet year for infectious disease.

During 1971 action was commenced on two clearance areas, each having over 50 dwellings. Gosforth is more fortunate than most authorities in the region in that it was able to deal with its original slum clearance programme by 1965. However, there is still a good deal of old property in the district without amenities. Most of the property can be improved but the fabric of buildings can deteriorate quickly, or congestion makes improvement difficult so demolition is the best answer in some instances.

.../Contd.

/Contd...

-3-

Substantial progress has been made in the last two years with smoke control and at the time of writing action has been commenced to put more than 25% of the properties in the district in smoke control areas. Given this rate of progress the whole district could be smokeless by 1978, although some of the older properties referred to above may present problems.

As a part-time officer I rely heavily on Mr. Stenger to deal with many matters. I have to thank him, Mr. Gibson and Mr. Taylor for doing a great deal of work in connection with infectious disease on my behalf. Mrs. Kershaw and Miss Jastrzab have dealt very expeditiously with a great deal of clerical work as well as coping with many members of the public.

Lastly, I would like to thank the members of the Council for their continuing interest in and support of the work of the department.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

H.C.T. SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	1,739
Registrar General's estimated population	27,140
Number of inhabited houses according to rate book at 1st April, 1971	9,533
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£11,485
Rateable value at 1st April, 1971	£1,148,504

Population trends:-

1951	24,500
1956	24,810
1961	26,600
1962	26,780
1963	26,800
1964	27,410
1965	27,400
1966	27,510
1967	27,540
1968	27,520
1969	27,390
1970	27,220
1971	27,140

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Numbers</u>		<u>Rates</u>
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
LIVE BIRTHS	181	174	355
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population			13.1
Comparability factor			0.97
Adjusted birth rate per 1,000 population.....			12.7
Ratio of locally adjusted birth rate to national rate			0.79
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS	11	7	18
Illegitimate live birth rate per 100 live births..			5.1
STILLBIRTHS	1	2	3
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths ...			8.4
INFANT DEATHS (Death in the first year)	3	3	6
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births			16.9
Legitimate infant mortality rate per 1,000 live legitimate births ..			14.8
Illegitimate infant mortality rate per 1,000 live illegitimate births.			55.6
NEONATAL DEATHS (Deaths in the first 4 weeks)	1	1	2
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births			5.7
PERINATAL DEATHS (Deaths in the first week and stillbirths)	2	3	5
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths			14.0
There have been no MATERNAL DEATHS since 1960			
DEATHS	189	207	396
Crude death rate per 1,000 population			14.6
Comparability factor			0.78
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 population			11.4
Ratio of locally adjusted death rate to national rate ..			0.98

Comparison with previous years

Year	Birth Rate (Adjusted)	Illegi- time Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate	Death Rate (Adjusted)
1956-60	16.3	2.7	22.2	14.3	11.6	33.0	11.6
1961-65	15.8	4.3	20.4	18.6	13.3	31.8	11.7
1966-70	13.2	5.1	10.7	11.2	9.6	18.5	10.9
1966	14.4	3.9	7.3	12.3	9.8	17.0	11.7
1967	13.6	4.9	10.3	15.6	15.6	25.7	10.1
1968	12.8	4.9	10.9	8.3	5.5	13.6	11.5
1969	12.7	5.8	13.7	11.1	8.3	16.4	11.3
1970	12.3	5.8	11.4	8.6	8.6	19.9	10.0
1971	12.7	5.1	8.4	16.9	5.7	14.0	11.4

Comparison with Other Areas - 1971

	Birth Rate (Adjusted)	Illegi- timate Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate	Death Rate (Adjusted)	Comparability Factors Births Deaths
England & Wales	16.0	8.0	12.2	17.6	11.6	22.0	11.6	1.00 1.00
Northumberland Admin. County	15.0	5.9	11.3	13.5	9.6	19.2	12.8	1.01 1.03
Newcastle County Borough	15.7	12.5	16.8	22.2	11.1	26.2	15.1	1.10 1.10
Gosforth U.D.	12.7	5.1	8.4	16.9	5.7	14.0	11.4	0.97 0.70
Newburn U.D.	16.5	5.0	17.5	8.1	8.1	25.5	14.0	1.05 1.39
Prudhoe U.D.	11.7	3.6	7.2	21.9	14.6	14.5	13.2	0.94 1.12
Castle Ward R.D.	8.9	6.1	15.7	13.3	2.7	18.3	10.1	0.86 0.75

[illegible]

/Contd....

	CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total all ages.	Under 4 weeks	4 wks. - 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & over
B46 (7)	Other diseases of Respiratory System	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
B34	Peptic Ulcer	F	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B36	Intestinal obstruction and hernia	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
B37	Cirrhosis of Liver	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
B46 (8)	Other diseases of Digestive System	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
B39	Hyperplasia of Prostate	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
B46 (10)	Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
B42	Congenital Anomalies	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
BE48	All other accidents	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
BE49	Suicide and self- inflicted injuries	F	15	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	3	12
BE50	All other external Causes	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
		F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
		M	189	1	2	-	2	-	4	6	14	45	50	65
	TOTAL ALL CAUSES	F	207	1	2	-	1	1	2	1	9	15	46	129

Principal Causes of Death

	Home		St. Nicholas Hospital		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Cancer	72	26.4	8	6.5	80	20.2
Ischaemic heart disease	76	27.8	16	13.0	92	23.2
Cerebro vascular disease	43	15.8	4	3.3	47	11.9
Other heart and circulatory disease	23	8.4	10	8.1	33	8.3
Respiratory disease	25	9.2	64	52.0	89	22.5
All other disease	20	7.3	9	7.3	29	7.3
Accidents and suicide	14	5.1	12	9.8	26	6.6
	<u>273</u>		<u>123</u>		<u>396</u>	

Place of Death

	Home	St. Nicholas Hospital	Other Hospitals	Total
A. Deaths in district	139	183	1	323
*B. Outward transfers	12	64	1	77
C. Remaining in district (A-B)	127	119	-	246
*D. Inward transfers	146	4	-	150
E. Total deaths assigned to district (C + D)	273	123	-	396

*B. Persons with less than 6 months residence in the district.

*D. Mostly persons belonging to Gosforth who died in hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne

Causes of Stillbirths

1. Placental insufficiency
2. (a) Foetal asphyxia (b) Prolonged labour
3. Cause unknown.

Causes of Infant Deaths

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Intracranial haemorrhage | Death in hospital at 5 hrs. |
| 2. (a) Congenital heart disease (b) Multiple deformities | " " " " 6 hrs. |
| 3. Acute pyelonephritis due to congenital hydronephrosis and hydro-ureter | " at home " 2 months |
| 4. Acute bronchiolitis | " " " " 2 months |
| 5. Bronchopneumonia | " in hospital " 2 months |
| 6. Acute tracheo-bronchitis | " " " " 6 months |

Accidental Deaths

Age

		25-34	65-74	75+	Total
<u>Motor vehicle accidents</u>					
Pedestrian/Car or van	M	-	1	-	1
	F	-	-	1	1
<u>All other accidents</u>					
Falls - Fractured femur	M	-	-	1 (2)	1 (2)
	F	-	- (3)	3 (7)	3 (10)
Other fractures	M	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	- (1)	- (1)
Drowning (Accident at home)	M	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	1	1
Stab wound (Open verdict)	M	1	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	M	1	1	1 (2)	3 (2)
	F	-	- (3)	5 (8)	5 (11)

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Table of cases notified in the Urban District during 1971, set out in age groups.

DISEASE	At all ages	Under 1 yr.	1-4	5-14	15-64	65 and over
Measles	19	1	7	11	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	1	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-	2	-	-
Infectious Jaundice	12	-	1	3	8	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	6	1	1	-	4	-
Acute Meningitis	1	-	-	-	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	-	-	-	-

MONTH OF NOTIFICATION

DISEASE	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Measles	-	1	4	-	-	5	4	3	-	-	1	1	19
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Infectious Jaundice	1	3	1	5	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Acute Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Dysentery.

Three separate family outbreaks were known to occur during the year. One of the cases was a food handler who was requested to do other work until negative specimens were obtained.

Salmonella Infections.

This year only two infections were known. One was in a young man who had been to Spain on a camping holiday. It was some months before negative specimens were obtained.

The other was an infection with Salmonella Muenster in a man who had been on holiday in Cyprus.

Cholera in Spain.

On September 7th Spain notified the World Health Organisation that cases of cholera had occurred in Barcelona and Valencia provinces. Persons returning from these areas were put on surveillance by Port and Airport Health Authorities if they did not have a valid vaccination certificate against cholera. There were 27 persons from Gosforth put on surveillance. They were visited and if there were any symptoms or if they were food handlers specimens were taken.

Infectious Hepatitis.

The cases all occurred in the first half of the year. One was contracted abroad. The others were mainly in the Grange area. All cases were visited but no direct connection could be traced between the cases. The probability is that a small outbreak occurred at one of the junior schools.

TUBERCULOSIS

Particulars of New Cases.

AGE	New Cases				Inward Transfers			
	Pul.		Non-Pul.		Pul.		Non-Pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
35 - 44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 +	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	5	2	-	1	1	-	-	-
	8				1			
	9							

Comparison with previous years

Year	New Cases	Inward Transfers	Deaths
Average 1946-50	26	5	14
" 1951-55	32	11	6
" 1956-60	23	11	2
" 1960-65	13	8	1
1966	12	7	2
1967	9	4	-
1968	8	2	1
1969	6	3	-
1970	13	1	2
1971	8	1	1

Tuberculosis Register 1971

	No. of cases on register at commencement of year		No. of cases added to register		No. of cases removed from register		No. of cases remaining	
	Pul. Non-Pul.		Pul. Non-Pul.		Pul. Non-Pul.		Pul. Non-Pul.	
Males	48	5	6	-	21	2	33	3
Females	28	4	2	1	11	2	19	3

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Immunisation and vaccination are given according to the following schedule :-

VISITS	<u>at AGE</u>	<u>VACCINE</u>
1	4 months	Triple Antigen and Oral Poliomyelitis
2	6 months	do
3	12 months	do
4	2nd year	Measles
5	4 - 5 years	Diphtheria, Tetanus and Oral Poliomyelitis
6	10 -12 years	B.C.G. (if necessary after skin test)
7	13 -14 years	Rubella (girls only)
8	On leaving school	Tetanus and Oral Poliomyelitis

During 1971 a letter from Sir George Godber stated that the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation had now decided that routine vaccination of infants against smallpox is no longer necessary. In the last five years the World Health Organisation has made substantial progress in its smallpox eradication programme. The area of the world in which smallpox now exists, and the populations in which smallpox is still occurring, have been greatly reduced. Therefore, the chances of the importation of the disease into Britain has been substantially lessened. Vaccination is a safe and reliable method of protection against smallpox for the vast majority of persons, but the number of serious complications in childhood, though few, is now out of proportion to the risk to the child of developing smallpox in Britain.

Vaccination will still be required for all travellers to and from areas where smallpox still exists and for all health service staff who come into contact with patients.

Numbers immunised during 1971

Type of Antigen	Year of Birth						Total
	1971	1970	1969	1968	1964-67	1955-63	
Triple Primary	33	250	37	2	10	-	332
Diphtheria/Tetanus Primary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetanus Primary	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Triple Reinforcing	-	8	14	5	89	3	119
Diphtheria/Tetanus Reinforcing	-	1	9	2	275	26	313
Diphtheria Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Tetanus Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	2	11	13
Poliomyelitis Primary	28	250	41	6	3	-	328
Poliomyelitis Reinforcing	-	8	23	7	386	316	740
Measles Vaccination	3	164	129	39	36	2	373
Rubella Vaccination	-	-	-	-	-	32	32

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1971.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again I feel greatly privileged to present to you for your earnest consideration my report on the work of the Health Department in the field of environmental hygiene.

I am happy to state that during the year there were no changes in the inspectorial or clerical staff. Any success the department may have achieved during the year was, in my opinion, due in no small way to the harmonious spirit prevailing in the department.

Mr. Taylor, appointed as a Technical Assistant in July 1970, "settled in" quite well and under the supervision of Mr. Gibson he has applied himself most commendably to the task of promoting our smoke control programme. Appreciable progress was made in this particular field and at the end of the year the Council resolved to make an Order under Section 11 of the Clean Air Act 1956 in respect of Area No. 2.

The department was fully engaged during the year, our main efforts being concentrated on securing a cleaner air for the residents of Gosforth to breathe, the clearance of the remainder of our unfit houses, and the administration of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act and the Food and Drugs Acts.

WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the district has a piped water supply, provided by the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company. Once again I am greatly indebted to Dr. A.T. Palin, Chief Chemist to the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company for supplying the following information.

Bacteriological Examination.

One thousand and thirty-two works control samples from Whittle Dene and Throckley were examined in the Company's Laboratory: all were "satisfactory", save three.

Two hundred and fifty-two samples of the water from the Coquet Water Board's Warkworth plant were taken at the Longbenton Governor House: all were "satisfactory".

Gosforth U.D.C. is supplied with water from both Warkworth and Whittle Dene/Throckley. During the year eleven samples were taken in the Urban District: all were "satisfactory".

Chemical Examination.

There were no significant changes in the average chemical composition of the water supplied for domestic consumption.

Fluoridation was practised at Whittle Dene and at the Henderson (Throckley) works. The concentration of fluoride ion in the supplies from the works was maintained at 1.0 milligrammes per litre, the optimum dose for the promotion of dental health.

Typical Results of Chemical Analyses of Filtered Waters

	<u>Max</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Mean</u>
pH Value	7.7	7.0	7.2
Free CO ₂	16	2	6
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	160	60	90
Hardness (as CaCO ₃)			
Total	200	100	150
Carbonate	160	60	90
Non-Carbonate	80	30	60
Calcium	190	70	120
Magnesium	60	20	30
Chlorides (as Cl)	17	9	12
Sulphates (as SO ₄)	70	20	50
Silica (as SiO ₂)	4.2	0.8	2.4
Fluorides (as F)	1.1	0.9	1.0
Iron (as Fe)	0.25	0.01	0.07
Manganese (as Mn)	0.05	0.01	0.01
Free & Saline Ammonia (as N)	0.23	0.04	0.12
Albuminoid Ammonia (as N)	0.20	0.01	0.09
Nitrates (as N)	2.0	0.1	0.8
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate	3.4	1.0	2.0
Dissolved Solids	280	130	210

Chemical results in milligrams per litre

NOTES:

1. Over much of the distribution system the water is a blend of the products of the principal treatment plants.
2. These plants in turn receive water in variable proportions from the several sources utilized by the Company.
3. It is therefore difficult to predict the composition of the supply to any particular point and the maxima and minima quoted are not to be regarded as absolute values but rather as limits not likely to be exceeded in normal circumstances.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse Collection.

It is interesting to recall that since November 1967 the complement of workmen on the manual staff of the Health Department has remained at twenty-nine. During this period there has been a fair increase in the number of business premises from which collections take place. Notably, the Regent Centre, where the quantity of refuse removed weekly is considerable. Construction of new dwellings throughout the district has made its presence felt producing over three hundred additional premises.

Despite the ever increasing demands made upon the department, and confronted with a high sickness rate among the manual staff, it was still possible to maintain a weekly collection of refuse. This was not achieved without some sacrifices, and unfortunately the baling of waste paper suffered.

The tendency for the refuse to become less dense and produce more bulk continues. This situation is aggravated by the ever increasing demands for special collections of bulky articles, such as unwanted furniture, garden refuse, etc. Applications of this nature usually average eight to ten per week. There would appear to be very little desire on the part of Gosforth residents to take advantage of the facilities afforded by the Longbenton Council enabling residents to dispose of domestic refuse at the Longbenton tip, free of charge.

The purchase of two 40/50 cu. yd. Pakamatic refuse collection vehicles, toward the end of 1970, brought a measure of relief to the situation. These larger capacity compression vehicles replaced two 18/25 cu. yd. Fore and Aft Tipping refuse collection vehicles, which had served the Council for ten years. The need to replace these Fore and Aft vehicles was obvious, having regard to their "age", but the greatest need was to acquire larger capacity vehicles to deal with the increased volume of refuse. The advantages of these larger vehicles are manifold but, in my opinion, they have also proved a sound financial investment when it is considered that the purchase price is just over £1,000. more than the purchase price of a Fore and Aft tipping vehicle.

Refuse Disposal.

Disposal of refuse continued to take place at the site on the old Coast Road, the average distance from Gosforth to the disposal point being approximately four miles. The number of loads deposited at the site was four thousand and seventy-six, a reduction of seven hundred and thirty-nine loads upon the previous year. This reduction in loads, despite the ever increasing volume of refuse, was no doubt attributable to the acquisition of larger capacity vehicles.

Mr. Thirkell, Chief Public Health Inspector of Longbenton Urban District Council, informs me that his Council has acquired a site adjoining the existing site. This valuable information means in effect that tipping space is provided for until the early part of 1974.

I would like to repeat once more my sincere thanks to Mr. Thirkell and his staff for their co-operation in connection with the disposal of refuse. In particular I would like to thank Mr. Thirkell for his untiring efforts to secure additional sites suitable to the requirements of both Authorities.

It would indeed be remiss of me if I failed to pay tribute once again to the Chairman and Members of the Longbenton Urban District Council for continuing to provide this Council with facilities for the disposal of refuse.

Salvage Disposal.

It is regrettable that I have once again to record a reduction in the output of waste paper with a corresponding reduction in income received from the sale of waste paper.

In my opinion the reasons for this further set-back were many and varied. As from the middle of October the Board Mills applied a 20% restriction on our output of waste paper, which had the effect of reducing the output to twenty tons per month. The Board stated that this action was taken reluctantly owing to the National economic climate. With rising unemployment, the demand for consumer products and, in turn, packaging board remained well below expectation. There always appears to be present an atmosphere of apathy towards this business of waste paper and, of course, as previously mentioned, the high rate of sickness among the manual staff did not improve matters.

The quantity of waste paper forwarded to the Board Mills during the financial year ended the 31st March 1972 was two hundred and forty-three tons, a reduction of thirty-five tons upon the previous financial year. The figure of two hundred and forty-three tons represents 0.75 tons per month per thousand of population. The reduction in the output of waste paper was mainly associated with newsprint, where the % reduction was 37.5%. Apropos the reduction in the tonnage of mixed paper, this amounted to 6.3%. There can be little doubt that the rising cost of newspapers largely contributed to the low output of newsprint.

The tonnage of paper, together with the respective grades forwarded to the Board Mills, and the income received from the sale thereof, is shown as follows :-

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Tonnes</u>	<u>£ . p</u>
Mixed Paper	207.65	2128 . 34
Newsprint	<u>35.33</u>	<u>441 . 61</u>
	<u>242.98</u>	<u>£ 2569 . 95</u>

Manual Staff.

It was with deep regret that during the year I had to report that the health of Mr. Bishton, Health Department Foreman, was giving rise to some anxiety. Owing to his continued absence and, with approval of the Council, I appointed Mr. J. Gill, an employee of over twenty years service, as acting Foreman.

Mr. Gill has proved a worthy successor to Mr. Bishton and I am grateful to him and the manual staff for their efforts during the year.

The sickness rate among the manual staff increased by nearly 50%. The amount involved being £1981, representing three thousand nine hundred and sixty-two man-hours, as against £1246., representing two thousand nine hundred and seventy-five man-hours for the previous year. It is interesting to note that the amount involved for 1969 was £970.

HOUSING

Surveys of properties in the Henry Street area and in the Riddell Terrace and Lambert Square areas were carried out and reports submitted to the Health Committee. These surveys, involving just over one hundred houses, were undertaken with a view to the Council taking action under Part III of the Housing Act 1957.

During the year a further seventy-six applications for Qualification Certificates were received bringing the total received up to four hundred and twenty-one. During this same period, one hundred and sixty-seven Qualification Certificates were issued, involving just over four hundred visits.

Housing Statistics.

New houses completed during the year.

a) By Local Authority	Nil
b) By private persons	87
Total number of inhabited houses	9482

Closing and demolition.

Housing demolished in Clearance Areas	Nil
---------------------------------------	-----

REPAIR.

Houses made fit.

a) By informal action	192
b) By owners, following Statutory action	4

Slum Clearance Programme
Housing Act 1957.

Part <u>III</u> Houses still to be cleared	104
Part <u>II</u> Houses likely to be subject to demolition or closing orders	Nil

Housing Act 1969
Discretionary Grants.

Applications submitted to local authority	79
Improvements completed by the end of the year	10
Approximate average grant approved per house	£451.

Standard Grants.

	<u>During the</u> <u>year</u>	<u>Total to</u> <u>date</u>
1. No. of separate houses for which grants have been made	22	231
2. No. of houses so provided with -		
(a) Bath or shower	15	115
(b) Wash-hand basin	16	136
(c) Hot water supply	16	135
(d) Internal water closet	21	195

AIR POLLUTION

Activity in this important branch of environmental health was indeed brisk, culminating in the Council resolving to submit Gosforth No. 2 (Grange Estate, part of) Smoke Control Order 1971, to the Secretary of State for the Environment, for confirmation.

The area consists of five hundred and thirty-seven dwelling houses, practically all of which are owned by the local authority. The number of dwellings requiring adaptation or conversion was two hundred and forty-six, the acreage covered being forty-two. The total estimated cost for the area was just over £25,000.

Towards the end of the year further progress was made when the Council resolved that a survey be carried out of Area No. 3. This area consists of six hundred and thirteen premises and covers seventy-three acres.

Apropos Smoke Control Order No. 1, at the end of the year fifty-eight applications had been received and approved in connection with the execution of works of conversion. Forty-three had been completed.

Total approved cost to date :-	£3068 . 41
Applicants expenses	£ 920 . 52
Local Authority expenses	£ 920 . 52
Exchequer Contribution	£1227 . 37

Readings of air pollution obtained through the volumetric gauge situated at the Council Depot, Christon Road, continued throughout the year.

NOISE ABATEMENT

Throughout the year eight noise nuisances were received, two of which arose from industrial processes. One of these nuisances resulted from a faulty valve in a dry cleaning establishment giving off a noise with a high pitched tone. Renewal of the valve abated the nuisance. The other nuisance resulted from the testing of engines, at an engineering firm. Unfortunately, this work was carried out by workmen engaged on shift work which included Sunday work. Representations made to the firm were instrumental in keeping to a minimum work carried out outside normal hours. The other noise nuisances involved excessive barking of dogs and the playing of musical instruments in an upstairs flat, thereby earning the displeasure of the tenant in the lower flat.

DRAINAGE SYSTEMS AND DRAIN TESTING

Duties in this particular field, i.e., the supervision of the layout and testing of new drainage systems and similar duties in connection with the repair and reconstruction of existing systems, compared with previous years, was on a reduced scale.

A total of six hundred and forty-one yards of new drainage was tested necessitating the application of forty-nine water tests and ten smoke tests.

The bulk of the work was confined to the construction of new business premises spread over six sites. Drainage work in connection with private dwellings was principally related to the improvement of dwelling houses.

The Engineer and Surveyor informs me that during the year his department dealt with one hundred and twenty-six drain stoppages.

DISINFESTATION

The number of complaints received in connection with insect infestations was sixty-two. Wasps accounted for twenty-seven of the complaints and cockroaches sixteen. Altogether, twelve different species were dealt with. It is pleasing to record that there were no complaints of bed bug infestation. The destruction of wasps' nests, even at ground level, is a precarious task. Very often nests are located at eaves level, and at levels of twenty feet the operation becomes quite an ordeal.

Once again I must record my grateful thanks to the Regional Pests Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, for prompt attention given to requests for identification of insects and for his advice in matters of extermination. Group meetings convened by the Ministry to discuss various aspects of pest control have again proved most interesting and informative.

RODENT INFESTATION

The number of complaints received during the year again showed a slight increase, one hundred and twenty-nine as against one hundred and eleven the previous year. The number of premises involved was one hundred and fifty and, of these, fifty-three were found to be infested with rats and twenty-three infested with mice. There was no evidence of any infestation in the remaining seventy-four houses, and all infestations found were minor in character.

The rodenticides used were Warfarin and Alphakil, the latter again proving very successful in connection with infestations of mice.

The majority of business premises continue to be regularly serviced by servicing agents. This is a very wise and necessary precaution, particularly in connection with food premises.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

This Act, passed in 1963, makes provision for securing the health, safety and welfare of persons employed to work in office or shop premises, and came into operation in 1964.

As in previous years, your Inspectors applied themselves most diligently to the task of administering the provisions of this Act. Over five hundred visits were made and one hundred and sixty-nine contraventions were discovered. Lighting formed nearly one third of the total number of contraventions found. In some cases the lighting was found to be very poor and well below even the minimum standards laid down by the Ministry.

One disturbing feature resulting from our inspections was the apparent lack of elementary care taken by some employers to avoid exposing young persons to dangers arising from the cleaning of machinery, i.e. bacon slicing machines, which come within the scope of The Prescribed Dangerous Machines Order 1964. It was also apparent that in some cases employees, whose duties included working at these machines, had not been instructed as to the dangers arising in connection with their use, nor had received sufficient training in work at the machines. These matters constitute infringements of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act and the Health Committee resolved that the firms concerned be made aware of the Council's grave concern at these practices. They stressed the need for employers to give urgent attention to these matters, with a view to eliminating danger to the staff.

During the year four cases of persistent infringements of the provisions of the Act were reported to the Committee, and it was agreed that prosecutions be instituted in each case. These were subsequently withdrawn when the firms concerned had taken the necessary action to comply with the Act.

Five accidents, four of which occurred in retail shops, were reported. None proved to be serious.

Registrations and General Inspections

(1) Class of Premises	(2) Number of premises registered during the year.	(3) Total number of registered premises at end of year	(4) Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	25	128	107
Retail shops	8	162	131
Wholesale shops, warehouses	1	2	2
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	-	18	18
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
TOTALS	34	310	258

NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS TO REGISTERED PREMISES - 541

Analysis by workplace of persons employed in registered premises

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
(1)	(2)
Offices	1948
Retail shops	669
Wholesale departments, warehouses	57
Catering establishments open to the public	204
Canteens	69
Fuel storage depots	-
Total	2947
Total Males	1320
Total Females	1627

Analysis of Contraventions

Section	Number of Contraventions found	Section	Number of Contraventions found
4	Cleanliness 13	13	Sitting facilities 1
5	Overcrowding -	14	Seats (Sedentary Workers) -
6	Temperature 3	15	Eating facilities -
7	Ventilation 2	16	Floors, passages & stairs 9
8	Lighting 52	17	Fencing exposed parts machinery 7
9	Sanitary conveniences 13	18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery 2
10	Washing facilities 24	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery 6
11	Supply of drinking water 1	23	Prohibition of heavy work -
12	Clothing accommodation -	24	First-aid 15
			Other matters 21
			TOTAL 169

Analysis of reported accidents

CAUSATION	Offices	Retail shops	Catering establishments open to public, canteens
Machinery	-	1	-
Transport	-	-	-
Falls of persons	-	1	1
Stepping on or striking against object or person	-	-	-
Handling goods	-	-	-
Struck by falling object	-	-	-
Fires and explosions	-	-	-
Electricity	-	-	-
Use of hand tools	-	1	-
Not otherwise specified	-	1	-

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

During the year three samples of water, one from the teaching pool and two from the main pool, were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. The result of the examination showed that the probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 ml. in each sample, was nil.

I am indebted to the Baths Superintendent for the following additional information.

No. Samples	pH Value		Combined Residual Chlorine		Free Residual Chlorine		Total Residual Chlorine	
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max
42 (per week)	7.4	7.8	0.2	1.5	1.0	2.5	1.2	4.5

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Part 1

Inspections.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	68	26	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	5	Nil	Nil
Total ...	73	31	Nil	Nil

Factories Act 1961

Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	by H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness(S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding(S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation(S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Total	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Factories Act 1961

PART VIII

(OUTWORK)

(Sections 133 & 134)

	Section 133	Section 134			
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing) making apparel) etc.) cleaning) and) washing	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970.

Food Premises.

There are one hundred and fifty-one food premises in the district, details of which are described in the following table :-

Type of Premises	No.	Type of Premises	No.
General Dealers	33	Premises with 'off-Licence'	7
Licensed Premises	26	Fried Fish & Chips	6
Meat Purveyors	19	Cafes, Snack-Bars	9
Confectioners	18	Fishmongers & Poulterers	3
Retail Bakers	14	Bakehouses	3
Fruiterers	13		

A total of three hundred and thirteen visits were made to the various food premises in the district, subsequent to which it was found necessary to serve twenty-three informal notices in connection with infringements of the Regulations.

Speaking generally the standard of hygiene in the food shops throughout the district was found to be fairly good. However, there were a few instances where the standard fell below that required under the Regulations and it was necessary to take informal action. The usual procedure was to acquaint the firm of the contraventions found at the time of making the visit. This action was later confirmed in writing. It was not found necessary to resort to the taking of legal proceedings.

Food and Drugs Act 1955.

Section 16 (Registration of food premises).

Five new applications for the registration of food premises were received during the year. There were seven deletions from the register.

Sixty-five premises are now registered for the sale of ice-cream, and twenty-nine for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food, intended for sale.

The type and number of food premises registered as aforesaid is shown as follows :-

Type of Premises	No. Regd.	Type of Premises	No. Regd.
General Dealers	31	Fruiterers	7
Confectioners	13	'Off-Licence'	4
Meat Purveyors	13	Bakehouses	2
Retail Bakers	7	Cafe, Snack-Bars	3
Fried Fish & Chips	6	Fishmongers	1

The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966.

There was a tendency on the part of some of the mobile food traders operating within the district to adopt a "couldn't care less" attitude towards the requirements of these Regulations. A total of sixty-eight inspections of vehicles was carried out, resulting in the service of thirteen informal notices. The number of inspections carried out was double that carried out in the previous year.

Three traders proceeded against for contraventions under the Regulations were fined a total of £95. The contraventions were mainly in connection with cleanliness and exposing food to risk of contamination.

Towards the end of the year the Council resolved to institute legal proceedings against a mobile food trader for failing to comply with the Regulations.

Poultry Inspection.

There are no poultry processing premises situated in the district.

Food and Drugs Act 1955.

Section 2. (General protection for purchasers of food and drugs).

Section 8. (Sale, etc. of food unfit for human consumption).

During the year twenty complaints were received, mainly in connection with the sale of food alleged to contain extraneous matter, or food alleged to have been sold in a mouldy condition.

Legal proceedings were instituted in four instances, resulting in fines of £305. being imposed, plus £22. costs. All of the cases referred to food being sold in a mouldy condition.

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959.

A firm was fined £15. for selling within the Urban District of Gosforth a pint of milk in a bottle which was not in a thorough state of cleanliness, thus contravening Article 27 (1) of the Regulations.

Unsound Food (voluntarily surrendered).

Over seven cwts. of food consisting of carcase meat and tinned food, plus nearly one thousand five hundred packets of frozen food, were voluntarily surrendered. The bulk of this food had been involved in a breakdown in refrigerating equipment.

Adulteration of Food.

I am indebted to Mr. C.L. Arlidge, Chief Inspector of Weights & Measures, Northumberland County Council, for supplying me with details of samples taken by his sampling officers in the Urban District of Gosforth during the year under review.

Mr. Arlidge informs me that one hundred and thirty-seven samples were procured, of which two were found not to be satisfactory.

Particulars of unsatisfactory samples

<u>Article</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Ready Salted Potato Crisps with added protein	Contained 6.8% Protein. This is not sufficient to justify the claim "With added protein". Manufacturers discontinued their claim.
Creamed Macaroni Rice Pudding	Presence of milk not declared in list of ingredients. Unsold stocks were withdrawn from sale and re-issued with an amended label.

TABLE 1.

(Complaints received and dealt with)

<u>Nature of Complaint</u>	<u>No. of Complaints</u>
Accumulations	4
Dampness (Dwelling House)	19
Defective Drains	9
Disrepair (Dwelling House)	16
Extraneous matter in food	20
Foul Smells	12
Noise Nuisances	8
Vermin (Insects)	62
Vermin (Rats)	78
Vermin (Mice)	51
Atmospheric Pollution	4
Defective Dustbins	1
Pigeons	2
Miscellaneous	32
Total	<u>318</u>

TABLE 11.

(Summary of Visits)

Accumulations	9
Dwelling Houses	395
Ditches and Streams	5
Drainage Systems	122
Drain Test :-	
Smoke	10
Water	49
Factories (Mechanical)	26
Factories (Non-Mechanical)	1
Factories (Outworkers)	3
Food Complaints	12
Food Premises	313
Infectious Disease Enquiries	75
Infectious Disease Revisits	2
Improvement Grants	241
Licensed Premises	15
Mobile Shops etc.	68
National Assistance Act	4
Noise Nuisances	27
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	300
Pigeons	10
Qualification Certificates	434
Rodent Infestation :-	
Rats	772
Mice	257
Refuse Collection Supervision	439
Schools re Sanitation	6
Smoke Observations	351
Verminous Premises	71
Water Samples	3
Workplaces	11
Miscellaneous	332
Total:	<u><u>4363</u></u>

CONCLUSION

In concluding my report, I would like to thank the Chairman of the Council, the Chairman of the Health Committee and all other members of the Council for their kind support throughout the year, and for the courteous manner in which my reports to the various Committees have been received and dealt with. I am equally grateful to the Clerk of the Council and to Dr. Smith for their support and kindly advice.

I am indeed very grateful for, and sincerely appreciative of, the efforts of both Mr. Gibson and Mr. Taylor. Throughout the year they have rendered me invaluable assistance.

Mrs. Kershaw and Miss Jastrzab, as usual, have worked diligently and conscientiously, and I am very grateful to them for their efforts.

I am, Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

GEORGE STENGER,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

